

SECOND STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS:

I would like to thank the Madisonville-Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce for inviting me to participate in this informational program. It is always a pleasure to share the platform with Mayor Cox and be with you ladies and gentlemen who have taken time from your busy schedules to be here today.

I would like to recognize the COUNTY OFFICIALS and MAGISTRATES in the audience:

COUNTY OFFICIALS

MAGISTRATES

**District One: Karol Welch
Chair of Solid Waste/Landfill Issues Committee**

**District Two: William "Bill" Groves
Chair of Economic Development/Workforce
Development Committee**

**District Three: Tim Riggs
Chair of Recreation, Buildings, & Ground Comm.**

**District Four: Larry Wilson
Chair of Budget, Audits, & Personnel Committee**

**District Five: Larry Rogers
Chair of Transportation Committee**

**District Six: Mike Duncan
Chair of Public Safety Committee**

**District Seven: J. Wesley Lynn
Chair of Legislative, New Projects & Special
Services**

We're 16 months into our term and wisdom has encouraged me to continue to think STRATEGICALLY:

A story is told about a business owner's concern when a new business similar to his own opened next door and erected a neon sign which read "Best Deals".

Shortly thereafter a second competitor opened on the other side of his business and put up a sign "Lowest Prices".

Instead of quitting, he developed a strategy to better those hindering his business. Over his own door, located between the competitors, he installed a HUGE FLASHING SIGN which read "MAIN ENTRANCE".

The Fiscal Court, when dealing with new problems or situations, begins with innovative efforts and positive decisions, to achieve our responsibility to all citizens of Hopkins County.

THIS PAST 12 MONTHS, THE FISCAL COURT HAD SEVERAL NEW INITIATIVES:

> One was to RECOGNIZE OUR DEDICATED EMPLOYEES.

This was accomplished with the first annual award ceremony with presentation of service pins and certificates to County employees with more than 5 years service. 72 employees with a total of 813 combined years service participated in this ceremony and reception. Our County has a total of 186 employees.

> Another area was CONVENIENCE CENTERS, RECYCLING and NUISANCE COMPLAINTS:

a. The position of Environmental Specialists was established to be in charge of the convenience centers. Roy Day fills that position and also has responsibility for investigating nuisance complaints.

b. NUISANCES: there are presently 21 active nuisance complaints being processed by Mr. Day. Letters have been sent and contact made with several property owners.

b. CONVENIENCE CENTERS: Coal severance funds were designated and a convenience center was constructed at Barnsley.

c. RECYCLING: An agreement was signed with Midtown Recyclers to enable the County to increase recycling efforts. Additional items are now accepted at the Convenience Centers. We placed receptacles to accept: newspapers, tin cans, scrap metal, mixed aluminum, cardboard, magazines, plastic bottles, motor oil, batteries and appliances. This information has been shared with the public through articles in the local newspaper and by our radio media. The first recycling payment has been received in the amount of \$7,849.

> ANOTHER WAS TO MAINTAIN GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY:

a. The Earlington Lawsuit has been settled.

b. \$250,000 was recovered from the State for 2005 debris removal costs and \$53,000 for debris removal in Webster County

c. A new tile ordinance was passed, to save County funds. (NEED TO ADD NEW EXAMPLE, THEN VS NOW)

d. Agreed for PACS operating the Hopkins County Assistance Center

FOR INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS:

e. The Property Valuation Administration Office will have their inspection period the first 2 weeks in June of this year. This timeframe is ahead of last year, and will enable them to get final assessments to tax districts timely.

f. The County Attorney's Office (need their input)

G. The Sheriff's Office (need their input)

h. The County Court Clerk's Office (need their input)

i. The HOPKINS COUNTY JAIL has successfully begun the home incarceration system.

They have also continued with the inmate Community Service Program Involving 26 different locations. Based upon a \$7.00 hourly rate and a total hours worked of 196,239, savings throughout Hopkins County was \$1,373.673.

\$18,500 of market value produce was raised in their garden, which not only provided vegetables to them, but surplus to share with the Salvation Army and Senior Citizens Center.

The road crew traveled 21,868 miles, and collected nearly 12,000 bags of trash and over 5,000 tires.

There are 72 open dump sites in our County, and 146 cleanup trips were made to them.

An agreement has been made to house federal pretrial inmates, at a fee of \$35 per inmate per day and \$16 an hour for guards used during transportation.

In 2007, the jail averaged 435 inmates a day (387 male and 41 female). The total number of inmates was 4171 (3130 male and 1041 female).

> NEXT TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

- a. The Information Technology Dept has been established with one employee**
- b. The GIS department has been enhanced**
- c. Supported & participated in the New Cities Program, and**
- d. established www.hopkinscounty.ky.gov website, through CONNECT KY at no cost to the County.**

> ANOTHER WAS OUR ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORTS

- A. Personnel & Administrative Policy Manuals for the Jail and County have been updated, printed, and distributed to employees**
- B. Relocation of Sheriff's & County Court Clerk's Ofc. accomplished.**

C. Performed 85 marriage ceremonies, (both Mayor Cox and Magistrate Groves have been recruited to serve as witnesses).

D Among the various resolutions and proclamations passed by the Fiscal Court were two unusual ones:

- (1) to recognize the 40 year anniversary of Earlinton High School winning the State Basketball Championship**
- (2) to honor and recognize Governor Steve Beshear, the second Hopkins County native to be elected Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

SUMMARY OF THE COAL SEVERANCE PROJECTS:

During this past year, progress has been made on pending and new coal severance projects. A total of \$2,288,304 was expended during 2007, and \$248.762 in the quarter ending 3/31/08 with \$1,405,373 yet to be expended for approved projects.

**The active projects are in the areas of: PUBLIC SAFETY
EDUCATION & SAFETY
CITY & COMMUNITY PROJECTS
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

(1) PUBLIC SAFETY:

Fiscal Court purchased the One Call Now system as service provider for a 4 year program for citizen's notification service. This has been successfully utilized with positive citizen feedback.

Purchased 10 weather warning sirens for the County with all installed, activated, and utilized.

Some vehicles have been purchased for the Sheriff's Dept, as well as Public Work vehicles & additional snow removal equipment.

Funds were used by the Area II Dive Team to purchase side-scan Sonar Equipment and boat, for use in recovery and rescue missions

\$200,000 was authorized for the North Hopkins Water District to repair a water tank and water lines and make upgrades to pump stations.

\$200,000 was authorized for the South Main Interceptor Sewer Project 1A.

(2) EDUCATION AND SAFETY:

\$10,000 equipment grant completed for SCHOOL COUNTS.

\$200,000 MCC SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY grant for equipment is near completion.

\$70,000 grant for a KEY LOCK SYSTEM for schools is near completion

(3) CITY & COMMUNITY PROJECTS

\$100,000 renovation grant for Madisonville-Hopkins County LIBRARY has been successfully completed.

Dawson Springs was awarded \$50,000 for construction of a concession stand/restroom facility at their City Park.

Rosenwald-Smith Multicultural Center continues renovation with their \$100,000 grant.

Center for Cultural Development completed their \$40,000 repair and renovation grant.

\$50,000 was authorized for the City of Earlington's water and sewer project, to eliminate losses in water and sewer lines.

Hopkins County Humane Society continued renovation and facility improvement with their \$50,000 grant.

(4) INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Design of the North Industrial/Recreation Park has been accomplished.

\$200,000 was authorized for permanent water and sewer lines to the Jennmar and J-Lok buildings. Jennmar will manufacture roof control systems for the mining industry, and indicate the plant will be fully operational with about 90 employees by the end of the year. J-Lok will manufacturer resin cartridges for Jennmar's products.

The New Expo Center design and construction project continues.

Land acquisition and infrastructure development for North Industrial Park is continuing. Real estate has been acquired, site plans & infrastructure approved, and competitive bids received.

OTHER COAL SEVERANCE PROJECTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ARE:

**INVOLVEMENT(assist truancy and other court related prog)
SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER IN MADISONVILLE
WHITE PLAINS CITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN'S BUILDING
GIS (equipment and office set up)
LIBERTY CHURCH ROAD (widen and upgrade)
FIRST LIBRARY GRANT (renovation of 3rd floor)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (land acquisition)**

**The current operating budget for Hopkins County is
\$26,477,991.**

Included in our expenditures are contributions to various agencies, including the Hopkins County Community Clinic, library, humane society, soil conservation district, PACS, Joint Planning, Pennyrile Narcotics Task Force, Historical Society, Volunteer Fire Departments, Economic Development, Glema Mahr Center for the Arts, Kentucky Sheriff Boys and Girls Ranch, and PADD.

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

The Liberty Church Road project continues.

**Hopkins County has 438.46 miles of road to maintain:
76.31 gravel**

87.57	chip and seal
274.58	asphalt

During 2007, 32 miles were chip and sealed and 16 miles were blacktopped.

We anticipate receiving funds to assist in repair of our roads from the recent rain and flooding damage, which could change our budget up to \$2,000,000.

We are pleased with the positive employment created by the addition of the Jennmar, J-Lok, and Land O'Frost plants in Hopkins County, but can't fail to recognize several employers have been lost during the past year. The unemployment rate for January 2008 was 7.1%. Our Court supports and encourages Economic Development efforts to secure new employers to our area and to expand present ones.

AS TO THE FUTURE:

Education and healthcare facilities, as well as economic development efforts have produced an environment in our County to be emulated. We are indebted to all the dedicated leaders of the past 200 years who were overseers of this progress.

Your Fiscal Court is continually and actively seeking information and working with other agencies for the betterment of Hopkins County, and to address identified needs.

AND WE DO HAVE SOME POSITIVE INDICATIONS:

**Efforts are being made for a Regional Sports Complex
The new Judicial Center planning is well underway
There will be employment opportunities at Jennmar & J-Lok
Economic Development efforts continue,
And there are promising recommendations from the New
Cities Program**

In closing, I want to thank all Hopkins County Departments and employees for their efforts this past year. It is my pleasure to work with you.

I also want the citizens of Hopkins County to remember my encouragement to contact the office or stop by for a visit. I have continued my "open door" policy. You are also welcome to attend Fiscal Court Meetings, normally held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 and the third Tuesday at 4:00 PM.

Let continue our efforts together and remember my thought from last year, "BIG THINKING PRECEDES BIG ACHIEVEMENT."

Thank you for coming and God bless.